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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

DPC 211

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO BRIEFING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1962
12:45 P.M., E.D.T.

MR. WHITE: Gentlemen, I apologize for being late and for my colleagues who are also late. We have two releases that should be in your hands. No. 612 announcing that six representatives of the lumber industry have been invited to serve as advisers to the official delegation that will meet with representatives of the Canadian Government in Ottawa on October 16-17 to continue discussions on the export of Canadian softwood lumber to this country.

Secondly, and particularly to the authors among our group, the Secretary announced today the appointment of a Government Advisory Committee on International Book Programs. This will constitute a group of leaders in the book industry to work with the Government to determine the most effective means of increasing the number of readers abroad of American books. (P.R. 614)

I would like to tell you that Under Secretary of State George W. Ball will depart at 2:00 p.m., from MATS, this afternoon, for the Canal Zone, Panama and Colombia.

On Friday, October 12, the Under Secretary will make the principal address dedicating the Thatcher Ferry Bridge across the Pacific end of the Panama Canal. This bridge, constructed with American funds, will serve to link together the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Mr. Ball will also attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Company on which he represents the Department of State.

The Under Secretary will then proceed to Bogota, Colombia,

for informal discussions Saturday with Colombian officials and United States representatives there. He will return to Washington on Sunday.

We will have this later in mimeograph form. If anybody wants to take notes, just slow me down. P.R. 615, the American delegation to the 51st Conference of the Interparliamentary Union leaves Washington for Brasilia tomorrow.

Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Edwin M. Martin, has taped an interview on CBS "Capitol Cloakroom" which will be aired on CBS radio network tonight. We hope to have a tape on this after lunch for anyone who wishes to hear it. It is for release at 6:30 tonight.

We will have for you later in the day addresses by Assistant Secretaries Luke Battle and Harlan Cleveland at the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO in Pittsburgh tomorrow.

Q. You have a tape but no transcript?

A. Yes.

Q. How long is that tape?

Q. It is usually a half hour show.

Q. Other networks seem to do a little better.

A. (Adv.)

Q. Do you have information or comment on the Indian-Chinese border troubles?

A. No. We have nothing specific on this. As you know, there have been these troubles for some time. But, so far as I know, we have no information that is not in news reports.

Q. Do you have anything to say about the announcement by Alpha-66

that it is going to take on all ships regardless of nationality that seek to deliver anything to Cuba?

A. No.

Q. No comment?

A. I have no comment.

Q. Does the State Department have any view on this group's operation on U.S. soil and apparently, at least, claiming to kill Russians?

A. We have no information that this attack of yesterday, that is, about the attack. I have no information and have been unable to turn up any this morning on the point of departure of these people. They, as I think you have been told earlier, are one of some 200-odd Cuban refugee organizations throughout the Caribbean.

Q. They are making announcements, presumably in their headquarters.

A. Yes, they are making announcements, that is quite true.

Q. Using your radio.

A. Using whose radio.

Q. ABC said declare war on them.

A. The Justice Department will investigate ABC.

Q. Is there anything at all you can tell us about the current status of the Cuban prisoner situation?

A. No, sir. The situation remains as it has for the past few days. I see nothing on the tickers this morning to indicate that any agreement has been reached. Indeed, I have seen the contrary, that it is going to be two or three days expected before --

Q. How about the stating of the ticker stories, the reports that the

government is prepared to underwrite some of this?

A. I just have nothing on that. I think we went into this yesterday and that is right where I am today.

Q. There are reports from Germany -- one from Bonn and another from Berlin -- saying that the United States is pushing the Federal Republic to detach some of its troops from NATO and attach them to the three Western Powers in case of an emergency in Berlin?

A. I have no comment on that at this time.

Q. Does the State Department have anything on the report from Bonn that Chancellor Adenauer may visit Washington later this month?

A. I have nothing on that either.

Q. I'd like to get back to Alpha-66, if I may. Do we have any information that indicates that an attack did take place on the date that they claim?

A. We have absolutely no information.

Q. When are you going to have something about the German troop thing? You say you don't have anything at this time.

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you expect this afternoon?

A. No.

Q. Do you have anything on a possible Khrushchev visit?

A. Nothing beyond the vast amount speculation that has been indulged in by practically everybody.

Q. Another question on Alpha-66. Is anybody making any effort to find out where these guys are? And go somewhere and tell them that it is not nice to go ahead shooting ships that are taking stuff to Cuba if they belong to our Allies?

A. I would assume that this matter is being looked into. I just ~~don't~~ have absolutely nothing on this and I ~~must~~ have made an effort to find out about it but nobody around here knows anything about it.

Mr. Reap tells me that I can inform you on a BACKGROUND basis that Justice said last night they were looking into it.

Q. Do they say this ON THE RECORD?

MR. REAP: I don't know. I say ^{it}/on BACKGROUND because I am not the source. END BACKGROUND.

Q. Anything new on the Communist Vietnamese troops in Laos, the status of our complaint, or any action?

A. No. The only thing in that connection, I can straighten out one little point that I was confused about yesterday and hoped would not confuse you, but I now have determined the facts, namely, that any signatory to the Geneva Agreement can take up violations. They can take this up through the Lao Government, through the ICC, or through the Co-Chairmen.

Q. Are we taking it up through the Co-Chairmen?

A. As I stated yesterday, what we have done so far is orally to convey our concern to Prime Minister Souvanna.

Q. And also to the ICC.

A. I didn't say that. I said, we will -- let me just repeat what I said on this yesterday here, if I can find it here. I said:

"In the absence of certification by the ICC of the departure of any substantial numbers of Viet Minh military forces known to have been in Laos, we can ~~presume~~ presume that there continue to be